



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600

**FORMER MOBSTER FEDERICO GIOVANELLI SENTENCED IN  
FEDERAL COURT TO 121 MONTHS IN PRISON**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that FEDERICO GIOVANELLI, a/k/a "Fritzy Giovanelli," was sentenced in Manhattan Federal Court yesterday by United States District Judge JED S. RAKOFF to 121 months in prison on charges of obstruction of justice and conspiracy to obstruct justice. The charges relate to a 1999 Grand Jury investigation into various members and associates of the Decavalcante Organized Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra. As a result of that investigation, in November 1999, indictments were returned charging approximately 40 members and associates of the Decavalcante Organized Crime Family with various offenses, including loansharking, bookmaking, extortion, and murder. GIOVANELLI was convicted at trial with tipping off the targets of those 1999 indictments to the fact that they were about to be arrested.

As alleged in the Indictment and as proven at GIOVANELLI's trial, GIOVANELLI provided various high-ranking

members of the Decavalcante Organized Crime Family with a list of individuals he identified as targets of the Grand Jury investigation and also provided information designed to identify a confidential informant ("CI") who was working with the Government in its investigation of the Decavalcante Organized Crime Family. As a result of the information provided by GIOVANELLI, members of the Decavalcante Organized Crime Family conspired to murder FRANK SCARABINO, an individual whom they mistakenly believed -- based on the information provided by GIOVANELLI -- was the CI. Testimony at the trial before Judge RAKOFF established that the murder plot was derailed only by the December 1999 arrests of the leading participants in the murder conspiracy. In addition, as a result of GIOVANELLI's tip, members of the Decavalcante Organized Crime Family took steps to evade law enforcement, hide money, and otherwise obstruct the Grand Jury investigation.

In imposing sentence, Judge RAKOFF noted that GIOVANELLI was a "moderately high-ranking member of the Mob," a "member of a vicious criminal organization who invaded knowingly the secret province of the Grand Jury and the prosecutors" to obtain the information that he passed on to the Decavalcante Family so that "obstruction and retaliation could occur." Judge RAKOFF also noted that GIOVANELLI acted with the knowledge that his actions "created a high risk, if not more, that death might result from his disclosures."

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of

Investigation and the New York City Police Department in this investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney JOHN M. HILLEBRECHT is in charge of the prosecution.

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